

SUSTAINABLE CITIES NEWS & UPDATES

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2012 Illinois Green Governments Awards

The [Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council](#) is pleased to announce this year's Green Governments Awards in recognition of outstanding environmental leadership and innovative sustainability accomplishments by Illinois state agencies and public institutions.

The Council is charged with coordinating state policies and programs that reduce pollution and integrate resource conservation into government operations. The

Green Government Awards program reflects the successful steps that state agencies are taking to ensure a greener Illinois.

Nominated agencies must demonstrate the accomplishment of an environmental project or program in one of the following categories: office practices, purchasing of goods and services, transportation, facility operations and management, construction and renovation, education and outreach, energy efficiency and conservation, waste reduction and

recycling, water quality and conservation, and green information technology.

The Awards are scheduled for Friday, January 4th, 2013 at the Executive Mansion in Springfield, IL. The annual Sustainable Governments Symposium will also take place on this date and will involve speakers on green government initiatives and practices.

For information about this year's awards or to view highlights from the 2011 Green Governments Awards, please click [here](#) or visit green.illinois.gov.

Subscription Information

If you no longer wish to receive Sustainable Cities updates from the Office of the Governor, or wish to add a colleague to this list, please email Mavara.Agha@Illinois.gov. For more information about Governor Pat Quinn's sustainability initiatives and the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, please visit Green.illinois.gov



"...this innovative center will attract the best minds from across our state and country to turn cutting-edge scientific research into new companies that will create more American jobs and revolutionize our energy economy."
- Governor Quinn at Argonne National Lab

Argonne National Lab Selected as DOE's Storage Hub

On November 30th, 2012, Governor Pat Quinn was joined by U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel to announce that a multi-partner team led by Argonne National Laboratory had been selected for an award of up to \$120 million over five years to establish a new Batteries and Energy Storage Hub. The Hub, to be known as the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research (JCESR), will combine the R&D firepower of five DOE national laboratories, five universities, and four private firms in an effort aimed at achieving revolutionary advances in battery performance.

Governor Quinn is providing \$5 million through his Illinois Jobs Now! capital construction plan to help build the state-of-the-art JCESR facility, which will be located on the Argonne National Laboratory campus in suburban Chicago.



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Clean Water Initiative

On November 15, 2012, Governor Pat Quinn highlighted his recently announced \$1 billion Illinois Clean Water Initiative in an address to the 2012 American Water Summit. The 3rd annual summit was held in Illinois for the first time with the goal of promoting solutions to the country's critical water infrastructure needs for the 21st century.

The Clean Water Initiative, which will create 28,500 jobs, will allow the state to meet the high demand by local governments for safe drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure funding. The IEPA reports that more than 350 local governments have already expressed need for the program. Currently, many Illinois residents are receiving water through aging water mains that are nearly a century old and scores of wastewater treatment facilities are in dire need of repair. The Administration expects to use the winter months to drive applications into the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency so projects can begin next spring.



"The Clean Water Initiative will ensure that we protect this precious state resource. By modernizing our water infrastructure, we can create tens of thousands of jobs and safeguard our waterways for generations to come"
- Governor Quinn at the American Water Summit



Spotlight: The EV Project

[Ecotality](#), a leader in clean electric transportation and storage technologies, is offering its Blink® smart charging stations free to residents and commercial host sites of the greater metropolitan Chicago area as part of its Department of Energy sponsored, The EV Project.

For a limited time, qualified residents and businesses will receive a free residential, Level 2 or DC Fast Charge electric vehicle charging station, along with a credit towards installation. To date, The EV Project has deployed approximately 8,100 charges across the United States and gathered more than 53 million miles of driver data. Now people interested in electric transportation in the Chicago region can join The EV Project and help us build a nationwide network of electric vehicle charging stations. For more information, please email [Stephanie Cox](#).



Spotlight: DCEO Boiler Tune Up Program

The [Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity](#) (DCEO) announced its Boiler Tune Up Program which provides cash incentives for projects that increase the natural gas efficiency of local governments, municipal corporations, public school districts, community college districts, public universities, and state/federal facilities located in the service territories of Ameren Illinois (“Ameren”), Nicor Gas (“Nicor”), Peoples Gas (“Peoples”), and/or North Shore Gas (“North Shore”).

The Boiler Tune-Up Program encourages the owners of natural gas boilers to invest in a Boiler Tune-Up conducted by a qualified contractor. The Boiler Tune-Up should result, on average, in up to 6 percent efficiency gain in the operation of the boiler resulting in payback periods in most cases of less than six months. For more information and to access the application click [here](#).

Jobs, Internships, and Opportunities

Environmental Law and Policy Center—Grant Writer

The Environmental Law and Policy Center (ELPC), the Midwest's leading environmental advocacy and eco-business innovation organization, seeks to hire a Grantswriter to work full-time in the Chicago office. This position reports to ELPC's Director of Development and is responsible for writing compelling and persuasive foundation proposals and grant reports. Click [here](#) for more information.



Lewis & Clark Community College

The purpose of this position is to direct the College's sustainability initiatives. The Director will fulfill the College's third-party pledges and commitments to lower the College's carbon footprint and energy consumption and to implement the institutional climate action plan. The Director will provide intellectual leadership in the installation of an energy dashboard system, networked meters, and the integration of microgrid energy components as PV solar, battery technology, ice production/storage, and fuel cells to the power grid. Click [here](#) for more information.

Knaus Marine Policy Fellowship

The National Sea Grant College Program Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship, established in 1979, provides a unique educational experience to students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources. The program matches highly qualified graduate students with "hosts" in the legislative and executive branch of government located in the Washington, D.C. area, for a one year paid fellowship. The deadline to apply is February 15, 2013, 5:00pm EST. Details about the fellowship can be found at [Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant](#) or [National Sea Grant](#).

Green Earth Institute – Farm Intern

Green Earth Institute has a 49-acre diversified organic vegetable farm located in the western suburbs of Chicago. Using an organic farm as a demonstration and learning center, Green Earth Institute grows healthful vegetables in an earth-friendly way and educates others about nature, nutrition, and caring for the earth. Interns participate in all parts of our organic vegetable production. From seeding to harvest, interns work on the farm 40hrs/week to help serve a 350-member CSA in Naperville, IL. For more information, please email mlemos@greenearthinstitute.org.

Sustainable Grants

2) Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Rebate Program

Deadline: December 20, 2012

The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is providing rebates toward the installation of Level II charging stations. Rebates cover 50% of equipment and installation (materials and labor) costs up to the following caps: \$3,750 per networked single station; \$3,000 per non-networked single station; \$7,500 per networked dual station; and \$6,000 per non-networked dual station. The maximum possible total rebate award is \$49,000 or 50% of the total project cost for up to 15 stations, whichever is less. Click [here](#) for more information.

3) National Institutes for Water Resources-USGS National Competitive Grants

Deadline: February 21, 2013

The National Institutes for Water Resources has issued a call for proposals for projects that address “water problems and issues of a regional or interstate nature beyond those of concern only to a single State.” Proposals should promote collaboration between USGS and university scientists, be disseminated and applied, and assist in training graduate students. NIWR and USGS have not yet received an appropriation for this program. The RFP may be obtained [here](#).

4) Fifth Annual Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge Opens

Deadline: March 5, 2013

The *Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge* is the premier national environmental sustainability competition for grades K-12 students. Through project-based learning, students learn about science and conservation while creating solutions that impact their planet. Beginning September 13, 2012 through March 5, 2013, teams from across the country will be challenged to create sustainable, reproducible environmental improvements in their local communities. To date, more than 62,000 students have participated in the Challenge. Teams of K-12 students and their teachers/advisors are invited to enter their ideas to solve environmental problems and compete for more than \$300,000 in total prizes. Click [here](#) for more information.





**Gateway Center
Collinsville, IL
March 12-13, 2013**

Geothermal experts from across the country will perform 2 days of seminars/training for geo dealers/contractors, loop installers, and utility representatives

To become a member of the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois, register as an attendee, or sponsor a booth, please click [here](#).



Chicago River Student Congress

Saturday, February 23, 2013

Curie High School

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The Chicago River Student Congress is a special conference where students have the chance to shine while learning more about the Chicago River and its watershed. Students share their knowledge, experiences and enthusiasm with their peers and environmental professionals. Students attend informative workshops and view displays created by other students and by professionals from local non-profit and government agencies.

This year's Congress will highlight the importance of water quality in the Chicago River watershed. From chemical measures, to the disinfection of the river, to biological factors such as dissolved oxygen and macroinvertebrates, everyone all have a vested interest in improving water quality. During the Congress, students will attend workshops, visit exhibits, and also have the opportunity to fight evil-doers such as Dr. Nitrate, the Soil Bandit, and Dirty F. Luent. Join the Super Water Quality Action Force to help rescue fellow superheroes who have fallen into the hands of evil!

Workshops and exhibits should highlight your students varied experiences in improving water quality. Everyone plays a vital role in safeguarding the health of the river's ecosystems for all plants, animals, and people.

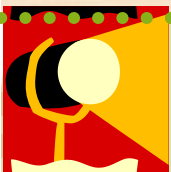
Click [here](#) for more information and registration materials.



Spotlight: Love Bikes? Love Chicago? Help Chainlink!

After years of success, Chicago's bicycling community website [Chainlink](#) is rolling out it's first crowd-sourcing campaign to ramp-up the site and bring Chicagoans more of the best rides, routes, and trends on two wheels. Chicagoans make life-long friends through The Chainlink, recover stolen bikes, join racing teams, swap gear, seek riding advice, advocate for better transit, promote businesses, and routinely add to "the pulse of the cycling scene."

Now The Chainlink needs help. 4 years running strong, the website needs a major tune-up. With 3 weeks to go, The Chainlink is almost half-way towards its goal of raising the \$15,000 needed to build a better website. Contributors get access to awesome bike-related gifts, including private bike rides. Head over to their [Indiegogo](#) page to support their efforts to revamp their website. To help, contribute by December 31, click [here](#).



Spotlight: [Catalytic Converter Thefts](#)

An employee at the U-Haul store in Springfield, IL was ready to hand over a truck to a customer the morning of December 3rd, 2012 — until he turned the key. A thunderous roar came from the engine, and it was clear something was wrong. The [catalytic converter](#) had been stolen. The truck was one of 29 U-Haul trucks, at two local U-Haul outlets, from which catalytic converters were stolen. The incidents were the first catalytic-converter thefts in the capital city this year, Springfield police records show. However, metal thieves also have targeted U-Haul stores recently in Peoria, Bloomington and Champaign, Illinois.

Catalytic converters include metals such as platinum, palladium and rhodium. If a thief gets his hands on one, it's worth about \$100 apiece and they can easily make \$1,100 an hour. The damage to businesses far outweighs the price thieves can get for scrap. According to a police report, it will cost the Springfield U-Haul stores \$1,200 to \$1,500 to repair each truck. Catalytic converter thefts have been on the rise in the past few years. Businesses with large vehicle fleets, car junkyards or scrap yards that buy catalytic converters are the most prone to thefts.

Caught Green-Handed

Gary Miller

University of Illinois, Prairie Research Institute

In this edition of “Caught Green-Handed” we honor **Gary Miller**, from the University of Illinois, Prairie Research Institute.

For the past 4 years, Gary Miller has Co-Chaired the Green Universities and Colleges Subcommittee for the GGCC and has represented the University of Illinois on that Council. The GUCCS has held well-attended, monthly webinars with guest speakers, on a wide variety of topics including energy efficiency, renewable energy, green purchasing, local food, alternative transportation, community health, and smart design. In addition, the sub committee has two active workgroups. One has revised and established a University Compact which has now been signed by over 45 institutions. The second workgroup deals with policy and legislative issues of common sustainability-related concerns to higher education.



For the past two years, Gary has also served on the organizing committee for the annual Sustainable Universities and Colleges Symposium, assisting with planning programs and reviewing proposed presentations. In the spring of 2011, he undertook a survey and reviewed the status of wind power curricula in Illinois. The results of this assessment were presented at the Advancing Wind Power in Illinois Conference 2011 held at the Illinois Institute of Technology in July.

Gary Miller — you have officially been caught green handed! Thank you for all that you have done. You are an inspiration to your community and to your state.

Fresh Potpourri

1) **NCSE's 13th National Conference: Disasters and Environment: Science, Preparedness, and Resilience**

January 15-17, 2013

Washington, D.C.

On January 15-17, 2013, join over 1,200 leaders from the emergency response, scientific, policy, conservation, and business communities, as well as federal and local government officials, to address themes such as cascading disasters, the intersection of the built and natural environments, disasters as mechanisms of ecosystem change, rethinking recovery and expanding the vision of mitigation, human behavior and its consequences and "No Regrets" resilience. Click [here](#) for more information.

2) **DCEO 3rd Food Scrap Composting Workshop**

February 7, 2013, 8:30 am— 3:30 pm

Westin Hotel, Lombard, IL

With support from a grant from the IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to the Illinois Recycling Association (IRA), a day-long seminar on composting food scraps/ Presentations on various aspects of food scrap collection and processing will be provided. The US Composting Council will provide the seminar's keynote speaker and an overview on current industry best practices and trends. Cost to attend the Food Scrap Composting Seminar are minimal, at \$30 for IRA members and students, and \$40 for non-members (includes break snacks, lunch and seminar materials). For more information and to register for the event, visit the Illinois Recycling Association [website](#).

3) **10th Annual Central Illinois Composting Symposium**

February 20, 2013, 12— 5 pm

Trutter Center, 5250 Shepherd Road

The 10th Annual Symposium is a forum for sharing composting information; stimulating the composting market; and bringing composters, educators and businesses together so that everyone can benefit from learning about this excellent organic soil amendment. Participants will learn about composting organic materials and resources available to be a successful composter. A Build Your Own Bin workshop will follow the symposium at 5:30 p.m. where participants can learn more about vermicomposting and construct their own composting bin for use at home or work. Click [here](#) for more information.





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This resource is provided by the Office of Governor Quinn to Illinois elected officials, municipalities, counties, organizations, and individuals interested in supporting sustainability efforts in their communities. For more information on sustainability resources, please visit our website, www.green.illinois.gov.

If you would like to submit an item to be included in the newsletter please email Mavara.agha@illinois.gov



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